

Message Text

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13

ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 USIA-15 /032 W

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R 011505Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6910

UNCLAS STOCKHOLM 1088

FOR: CU/FS/COOK

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, CVIS, SW

SUBJECT: SWEDISH YOUTH EXCHANGE PROGRAM

REF: (A) 75 STATE 296322, (B) 75 STOCKHOLM 6479

1. EMBASSY OFFICIALS WERE VISITED BY PETER WAHREN AND STIG HEDBERG OF SWEDISH CENTRAL COMMITTEE FOR SCHOOL EXCHANGE (SCC), WHO WANTED TO DISCUSS WAYS OF SPEEDING UP PROCEDURES TO QUALIFY FOR EXCHANGE-VISITOR PROGRAM NO. THEY ARE ESPECIALLY EAGER TO QUALIFY BY THIS SUMMER, SO THAT NEW BATCH OF SWEDISH STUDENTS CAN BECOME ELIGIBLE FOR DSP-66'S: SCC PRINTED AND DISTRIBUTED ITS NEW PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS IN AUGUST 1975, BEFORE NEWS OF CALIFORNIA ATTORNEY GENERAL'S DECISION ON I-20'S BECAME KNOWN. A LARGE NUMBER OF SWEDES WANT TO ATTEND WEST-COAST SCHOOLS.

2. WE WERE TOLD THAT THE MAIN REASONS FOR SCC'S WANTING TO RUN AN INDEPENDENT PROGRAM, NOT TIED TO EXISTING EXCHANGE ORGANIZATIONS, WERE THE DESIRE TO FIND LARGER NUMBERS OF HOST FAMILIES AND REDUCED COSTS. THEY CLAIM THAT THE SWEDISH STUDENTS CAN SAVE CONSIDERABLE MONEY BY AFFILIATING WITH SCC RATHER THAN OTHER EXCHANGE PROGRAMS. IN ADDITION, ICX HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO MEET THE SWEDISH DEMAND, WHICH NUMBERS 400 STUDENTS FOR 1976-77 SCHOOL TERM; ONLY 250 ICX PLACES HAVE BEEN ARRANGED

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3. RIGHT NOW, SCC IS SEEKING LEGAL AID TO PREPARE
PETITIONS FOR INCORPORATION AND TAX-EXEMPT STATUS.
EMBASSY URGED WHREN TO DISCUSS MATTER THOROUGHLY
WITH APPROPRIATE DEPARMENT OFFICIALS WHEN HE VISITS
WASHINGTON DC UPON HIS RETURN TO U.S. IN MID-
MARCH.
JOHNSON

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NNN

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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